

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 26, 2005 LB 118

inappropriate reason, Senator Cunningham would be on the opposite side and he would oppose such a bill. Wouldn't you, Senator Cunningham? You wouldn't be in favor of the Legislature stepping in to protect an individual employee as you're willing to have the Legislature protect this big powerful operation. You don't have the same concern for individual employees, do you?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Is that a question, Senator Chambers?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, it's a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cunningham, do you yield?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Senator Chambers, I do believe that I do, but I...you need to be warranted.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: The issue you're talking about with the employee and the...being fired for misconduct or quitting on your own free will...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, not...let me give you an example. A person has worked for a company for five years, has a stellar record, never stolen, never been late. When the boss was not there because the weather was too inclement, this employee was there. And there is nothing wrong with the employee's carrying out of his or her duties. Then it comes to the employer's attention that this person is gay, and I'm going to fire that person. Would you support a bill that would say you cannot fire a person in those circumstances? Let the Legislature step in to protect that individual's right to earn a living for his or her family as you want to protect this big business operation. Would you support such a bill that I described?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: I wouldn't commit to that right now, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. But you're committing everything, lock, stock and barrel, to protecting this big business in your